



AAPD

**American Association
of People with Disabilities**

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July 14, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Distribution Center

Re: Verizon's Petition for a Declaratory Ruling or, Alternatively, Interim Waiver and
Verizon's Conditional Petition for Forbearance with Regard to Broadband
Services Provided via Fiber to the Premises, WC Docket No. 04-242

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), I urge the FCC to advance its broadband agenda by providing interim relief to Verizon Communications for broadband internet services provided over fiber to the premises.

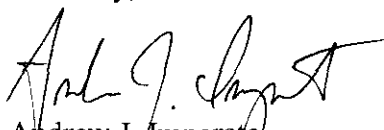
AAPD is the largest national cross-disability membership organization in the U.S. With more than 80,000 members, AAPD works to promote the political and economic empowerment of all people with disabilities through programs in leadership development, career exploration, non-partisan voting initiatives, and public policy advocacy.

Technology plays an important role in the lives of many individuals with disabilities enabling them to participate more fully within their own communities.

While the FCC is considering a national broadband policy, we write to support Verizon Communications' petition and enable Verizon to build its fiber network so that it can continue to offer services and provide additional telecommunications options for consumers. Many broadband applications, including real-time video relay interpreting, telemedicine, and contemporaneous monitoring, have the potential to dramatically improve the lives of disabled users. Through its fiber network, we believe Verizon will be a welcome competitor to cable operators, which could result in better service quality, innovative packages, and competitive prices, making these services accessible for people with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our letter of support. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-457-0046, ext. 29 or by email at imparatoa@aol.com.

Sincerely,


Andrew J. Imparato
President and CEO

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